REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-42 in the application. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 21-42 are allowable and that Claims 3-7, 9, 13-17 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. (*See* Examiner's Action, page 3.)

In the present response, the Applicants have amended Claims 1-7, 9-11, 21 and 31 and canceled Claims 8 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer. No other claims have been canceled, added or amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-7, 9-17 and 19-42 are currently pending in the application. Additionally, the Applicants assert that all of the pending claims are allowable.

I.   Formal Matters and Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 for containing informalities. In response, the Applicants have amended these claims to remove the informalities by spelling out the acronyms "MP" and "MUX." Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 and allow issuance thereof.

II.   Rejection of Claims 1-2, 8, 10-12, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, 8, 10-12, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,701,432 to Deng, *et al.* The Applicants respectfully disagree since Deng does not teach a field programmable network application specific integrated circuit including a media access controller configured to transmit and receive network data via a physical interface device as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 11.

Deng is directed to providing secure communications on a network. (*See* column 1, lines 4-6.) Deng discloses a communication system 200 including an ASIC 204. (*See* column 4, lines 46-48 and Figure 2.) The ASIC 204 includes various processing engines for authentication, encryption, decryption, virtual private network and firewall services of packets. (*See* column 5, lines 16-19 and Figure 4.) The ASIC 204 also includes a host interface 408. (*See* column 5, lines 29-31 and Figure 4.)

The ASIC 204 does not include, however, a media access controller that transmits and receives network data via a physical interface device as recited in independent Claims 1 and 11. Instead, the communication system 200 of Deng receives packets at a public network link 120, not via a media access controller of the ASIC 204. The ASIC 204 includes the host interface 408 but it is connected to a memory bus 129 to provide a link between the ASIC 204 and the memory bus 129. The Applicants do not find any teaching in Deng that the host interface transmits and receives network data via a physical interface. Thus, even assuming the ASIC 204 is a field programmable network application specific integrated circuit as asserted by the Examiner, the ASIC 204 of Deng does not include a media access controller that transmits and receives network data via a physical interface device as recited in independent Claims 1 and 11.

Therefore, Deng does not teach each and every element of independent Claims 1 and 11. As such, Deng does not anticipate Claims 1 and 11 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection with respect to Claims 1-2, 8, 10-12, 18 and 20 and allow issuance thereof.

III.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7, 9-17 and 19-42.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, PC
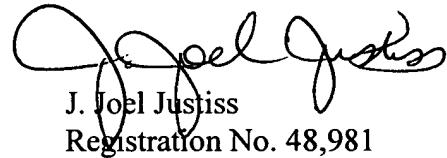
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